THE FOLLOWING is the story of how the war supplies of General Braddock, which he discarded in his hasty retreat from Fort Duquesne, were found by means of a geophysical prospecting device and how, in the finding of them, the outlines of Colonel Dunbar's camp, where Braddock's defeated army stopped for its first camp site the day after the battle, were traced.

Mr. Shirl Herr of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and the writer drove to Fort Necessity in August, 1932, to survey the fort with the expectation of finding some relics left by Washington when the fort was abandoned July 4, 1754. On arriving at the fort on August 20, we met Mr. Blackford, who had charge of the reconstruction of the fort. While waiting to get permission to make the search we decided to hunt for shells at what was supposed to be the site of Dunbar's camp. Mr. Blackford's son had found a broken shell during the summer on the side of a mountain of the Laurel Hill range, where Braddock's trail was supposed to have been traced. The exact site of Dunbar's camp was not known, so we had to hunt blindly for buried shells and camp articles, starting at the place where the boy had found a part of a cannon ball. We were lucky immediately; for we located five broken shells under the ground within an hour. We found no more that afternoon but we returned the next day to renew the search for the real camp site where Braddock had ordered most of the war supplies destroyed, buried, or burned. A man who had lived there when a boy was visiting the site. He said that years ago he had found some broken shells down the mountain side, not far from where we were hunting. Going to this point at the base of the mountain, we began to find camp equipment and buried broken shells in considerable numbers. The finding of these materials showed that without a doubt we had found the old Braddock-Dunbar camp where

1 Colonel Thomas Dunbar commanded that part of General Braddock's army that followed him with the baggage, heavy artillery, and stores. On the day of Braddock's defeat, July 9, 1755, Dunbar's troops were encamped about fifty miles in the rear. On July 10 Dunbar learned of the disaster. The camp was thrown into confusion by the fleeing remnants of Braddock's army, and when the general, fatally wounded, arrived at the camp he gave orders to destroy or bury most of the ammunition and military supplies to prevent them from falling into the hands of the French and to facilitate a further retreat. Dr. Abbott, the author of this paper, is associate professor of physics at Purdue University. Ed.
the supplies had been abandoned. After marking the spot we left, and the next morning we went back to make a search around Fort Necessity. The search did not bring to light anything except modern articles, and we were forced for lack of time to return home.

Shortly afterwards, Mr. Herr and the writer received an invitation to be the guests for a week of Mr. McClellan Leonard of Uniontown, so that we could make a thorough search for Braddock’s war supplies and survey the old camp site that we had located in the summer. Mr. Leonard is chairman of the committee on ways and means of the Fort Necessity chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and he is also a member of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. As he had obtained permission from land owners to search and dig for war relics, we decided to accept his offer; accordingly we spent the week beginning October 25, 1932, with him in searching, digging, and surveying along the Braddock trail north of Fort Necessity. Every day we were successful in locating many articles of camp equipment and shells of various sizes, and every evening we returned to Mr. Leonard’s home in Uniontown with one hundred pounds or so of rusty antique material to clean up and examine.

A tablet had been erected on the supposed Braddock-Washington trail at a point where historians had assumed that Dunbar was encamped at the time of Braddock’s defeat and where the retreating general had ordered Dunbar to destroy or bury all excess war material and supplies preparatory to a further retreat. The instrument that helped us to determine the boundaries of Dunbar’s camp by locating the discarded camp equipment and war materials proved that history missed the exact location by at least an eighth of a mile. After the camp area was outlined the old trail scars were found leading into one end and out of the other end of the camp. A very large old oak tree was found growing in the middle of the old scar, showing that this trail had not been used for a hundred years or more. After having discovered some of the boundaries of the real camp with our instrument, a survey was made with an army engineer’s compass as follows: a traverse was run from the tablet marking the location of Dunbar’s camp to a stone pump house at the old spring. Another traverse was run north from the center of the camp up to the base of the mountain known as Dunbar’s Knob.
Survey of Dunbar's Camp where Braddock's War Supplies were Destroyed July 12, 1755.
Dotted area shows where War Supplies were Recovered during week beginning Oct. 25, 1932 by McClellan Leonard, Shirl Herr and Raymond B. Abbott.
Another one was run from the center of the camp forty degrees west of south, through the low land to the foot of the mountain opposite Dunbar’s Knob. The accompanying map of Dunbar’s camp was then made from the above data.

All the relics were from one-half to two feet under the ground and their locations were discovered by means of the portable miniature prospecting outfit. It operates by the phenomenon of re-radiation. The device is patented and owned by Mr. Shirl Herr, who worked under the direction and supervision of the writer. Its trade name is “Little George,” because it never tells a lie.

One collection of camp articles was left at the Fort Necessity Museum. A larger collection, that shown in the accompanying photograph, was left with Mr. McClellan Leonard for the museum in the public library at Uniontown. It is hard to identify all of the relics, but we see in the photograph parts of eight-inch (fifty pound) cannon balls, some whole four and one-half inch (twelve pound) balls, a lot of one and one-fourth inch and one-inch balls, large tire spikes, long nails, pinchers for shoeing horses, wagon-bow staples, rings, pins for spiking cannon, a horseshoe, a chain, a hook, a clevis, a bridle bit, and a copper dipper handle. A pile of horseshoe nails was found, evidently where the blacksmith did his work. Since Daniel Boone was on this expedition and was a blacksmith by trade, they might have been his nails.

The camp site is in a wild mountainous country, once a chestnut forest but now covered with oaks and young chestnut trees and a thick underbrush. The natural increase in the depth of soil has been such as to cover the camp articles a foot or more under the surface during the 177 years since they were left. It has been proposed that the place be made into a park and that a good road be built up the mountain for easy access. At present a road runs from the Summit Hotel on Route 40 (National Highway) to Dunbar’s camp site, but it is difficult to negotiate. Wild deer are still found in that part of the Allegheny Mountains. If the camp site is made into a park and the underbrush is cleared away so that one can take an instrument over all the ground, many more antique articles will be found that can tell more stories of Braddock’s disastrous expedition.

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Collection of Articles Found at the Site of Dunbar's Camp